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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

18 December 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation between [] and []

1. [] called at my office at my request on Monday, 17 December 1951. I told him that I had certain FIEND matters to take up with him and gave him copies of two FIEND leaflets -- one that had been dropped on the 7th November, and another which we are holding in readiness for the next drop.

2. [] asked me whether there was anything new in connection with the clarification of long range policy on Albania. I told him that the State Department views, which represented the best information on this subject, had been passed on to the Embassy, as he already knew, and that now we are awaiting the British Foreign Office reaction. He said that although he thought that the new government would be in favor of a more forceful policy in the future, most of these problems would remain a little indefinite until Mr. Churchill's visit to this country. I asked whether there was any possibility that, in order to allay fears or reduce criticism that the new government is a war mongering one, the new government would be inclined to follow a less forceful line than hitherto. He replied that all these questions are being considered now, and he didn't seem to be quite so certain that the new policy would be stronger than in the past.

3. I told [] that I had received indications that [] felt that the Rome element of the Committee should be considered the Committee headquarters. I stated that, in accordance with an agreement reached in London with SIS in June 1949 and because of the method of financing the Committee through the NCFE, we felt that the headquarters should remain in New York and could not consider a change unless we were convinced that there were very good reasons for making a change. He promised to pass this comment on to London and get London's reasoning on the question.

4. I explained to [] that during the FIEND Meeting in Rome we had agreed with the British to plans for reconstructing the Committee in order to put it in a more flexible and functionally useful form. I further stated that, apparently, at least some of the Albanians are aware of the fact that the subject is under consideration. One of the Balli Kombetar leaders told our Rome representative that the

Balli Kombetar would not

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Balli Kombetar would not consider any tampering with the Committee's present structure, and clearly indicated that the Balli Kombetar proposed to take a very stubborn stand in the matter.

5. I told [] that we had been told by SIS that the Voice of America programs have been lending what amounts to at least moral support and prestige to the BKI Party by referring to the Party newspaper when quoting certain news items in the Albanian language broadcasts. A check had been made of the character of the references to the BKI, and it seemed clear that the Voice of America was determined to remain aloof from politics and to refer to the sources of its quotations without promoting or attacking any specific party. I explained to [] that it rather appeared that there was very little that we could do about this matter. I added that possibly [] information on the subject was somewhat distorted since it probably came from Balli Kombetar sympathizers who work for the BBC and to whom any non-deprecatory reference to the BKI or its newspaper is almost equivalent to support. [] promised to pass this on to SIS and to find out whether there were any specific passages in the Voice of America broadcasts to which the British took exception.

6. In parting, I returned to [] certain mimeographed reports on the recent Bulgarian spy trials which had been handed to me by []

[] Chief, EE-1 []

EE-1/GMY/awn

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